

by the men it honors." Today, America is a better place because of young men and women like Michael. And America is a better place because of good parents like Edward and Dorothy Heiermann.

Small acts of great love are the unremitting actions that make America great. It is my honor today to recognize the service of this young man as an example of a true patriot—a testament to which we should all aspire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on October 23, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my votes for rollcall No. 993 and No. 994.

Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 993—"yea", rollcall No. 994—"no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed on October 22nd and 23rd.

On Monday, October 22, and Tuesday, October 23, 2007, I was unable to be present in the Capitol due to prior commitments and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 983, 984, 985, 986, and 987. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all votes.

In particular, I want to note my strong support for H.R. 189, the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park Act of 2007, which was introduced by my colleague from New Jersey, Congressman BILL PASCRELL, JR., and which was considered as rollcall No. 983. This legislation establishes the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System, thereby enshrining a truly unique national historic district in New Jersey. Had I been present during the consideration of this bill, I would have voted "aye" with great pleasure and pride.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF CONRAD AND FRANCES C. GASKIN, PHD

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce you and my colleagues to a very special couple who happen to be my cousins.

Conrad and Frances are first generation African Caribbean Americans who were born in New York State. The parents and grandparents of Conrad hail from Guyana, South America, continental United States and Ja-

maica, West Indies. Frances is rooted in five generations of the Christian and Farrelly clans on St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands and Guyana and Nigeria, by enslavement, and also West Meath, Ireland, respectively. The two met while attending St. Augustine's Elementary School in the Bronx, New York.

After elementary school Conrad and Frances went on to Bishop Dubois High School for Boys and Blessed Sacrament High School for Girls. Upon graduation he enlisted in the United States Air Force and was honorably discharged four years later. He followed in his parent's footsteps. His father, Lionel Gaskin was a Merchant Seaman and prolific mathematician and Lillian his mother, a health care companion and a storytelling humorist.

Frances went on to City College of the City University of New York (CUNY), where her father, Clement Christian had graduated several years before, and Fordham Hospital for Registered Professional Nursing, initiated by her mother, Therese, who was a Licensed Practical Nurse and an omniscient resource person.

Frances is a second generation graduate from the CUNY system. They were married by Monsignor Cornelius Drew on September 14, 1957 at St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church in the Bronx, New York. Three children were born from this union: Conrad II (1995), Trace and Troy.

Being Catholics, the children received the sacraments at St. Augustine and Most Holy Trinity in Brooklyn, New York. The family continued its affiliation with St. Augustine until immigrating to Brooklyn, New York where Our Lady of Charity became their new Church home under the pastorate of Reverend Doctor James E. Goode, OFM. During the marriage Conrad and Frances reared their children, along with the "village"; for it takes a Village to raise even one child. Their children learned the Montessori Method of Education at the United Nations Church Center, New York and continued their basic education at Most Holy Trinity Elementary School.

During the marriage, Conrad and Frances attained undergraduate and graduate degrees. He is an alumnus of Brooklyn College (CUNY) and Antioch University and she earned degrees from Hunter College (CUNY), Adelphi University and Fordham University. Their children were educated at Fordham Prep, New York Brooklyn Technical High School and Cascadilla Prep School in Ithaca, New York and Stuyvesant High School, New York. Conrad II, Trace and Troy went on to graduate from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine; Fordham University and Long Island University, New York, and Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, respectively. A Fordham family tradition was upheld: Trace completed her undergraduate degree, Conrad graduated from Fordham Prep and Troy completed coursework at the University. Trace is a second generation graduate of Fordham. Some overlapping occurred in the family's quest for education: Four family members were in college at one time. The children went on to become responsible citizens in banking, education and brokering real estate.

Of the marriages, Conrad II; Trace and Troy united in matrimony with Adrienne; Mario, and Angela who brought forth five grandchildren: Conrad III and Kayla; Soleil Mustafa, and Briana and Troy Ashly II. Briana attends Hunter College High School and is the third generation in the CUNY system.

For a career change, Conrad and Frances emigrated from Brooklyn to Albany, New York and helped found an additional Church home in the Faith Community of the Black Apostolate, which later expanded to include St. Joan of Arc and Sacred Heart Churches of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, New York. Father Kofi Ntsiful-Amissah serves as Pastor.

The family demonstrated entrepreneurial strengths by starting a skin and hair care business called Frances Christian Gaskin, Inc. Four patents were awarded in the United States for dissolving melanin and placing it into the MELANIN PLUS products.

The family enjoys interstate and international travel, exposing their children and grandchildren to strong family values, and other places and cultures in the United States, the Caribbean, and their own children, to Europe.

Conrad is retired from The New York State Teachers' Retirement System; Frances is a former College Professor in Nursing and is pursuing her studies in Medicine.

Conrad and Frances, recognizing that "giving back" is the highest form of service, continue to advise the youth in academics and sports. Conrad coached basketball and swimming. Frances has also worked with the American Red Cross and is a Staff Officer with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Both are Ministers of the Eucharist.

They love participating in Church activities and sports, particularly swimming and SCUBA diving. They are also communicants and members of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church and the Polar Bears on Martha's Vineyard, and also members of the Holy Cross Church and the Lil' Bay Posse morning swim on St. Croix.

The theme song on their 50th Wedding Anniversary was "I Believe." They are indeed people of faith!

We thank God for this special couple and their family and we thank Him for the 50 wonderful years He has given them.

I ask the entire Congress of the United States to join me in wishing them many more loving years together and His continued blessings.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT M. ALLEN,
UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert M. Allen, a World War II veteran. He joined the United States Navy on December 7, 1940 and was assigned to a small seaplane protector, the U.S.S. Avocet (AVP-4).

Upon completion of signalman school, he returned to the Avocet in February 1942 and received orders to transfer to the Convoy Control Center in Algiers, Louisiana. For the next two years, Robert plied the Gulf, Caribbean, and the Atlantic, which were teeming with German U-boats. Fortunately, none of his ships or convoys were attacked. After devoting five years of dedicated service to the Navy, Robert was discharged on January 14, 1946.

World War II is known as the deadliest conflict in human history, taking the lives of over

70 million people. During this difficult time, our country stood united behind our brave servicemen and women who so willingly took to the battlefields to defend freedom and democracy. It is veterans like Robert that helped us emerge victorious from World War II and restore hope and humanity in a world that was shattered by the darkness of hatred and violence.

His patriotism, courage, and selflessness should be commended and his dedication to public service deserves our highest regard. Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for his service to this great Nation.

RECOGNIZING VERNA RUTHERFORD OF PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize a distinguished Texan and long time community leader in Southeast Texas. After nearly a decade of service Mrs. Verna Rutherford is stepping down as Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce President. As Chamber President Mrs. Rutherford has worked tirelessly for the economic expansion of Port Arthur and all of Southeast Texas.

Mrs. Rutherford has always been a dynamic leader in her community. She is past president and 1981 Quota Club member of the year, 1984 Port Arthur Noon Business and Professional Woman of the Year, 1993 Chamber Athena Award recipient, a member of the Port Arthur NAACP, Rotary Club, and Aurora Sertoma Club.

Mrs. Rutherford's level of commitment goes far beyond the organizations she is a member of and this commitment was on full display after Hurricane Rita ripped through the Texas Gulf Coast. Hurricane Rita has often been forgotten by all but those who have lived through it on the Texas Coast. After Rita, the role of Chamber President grew much broader; instead of business development, Mrs. Rutherford was concerned about getting the citizens of Port Arthur food, water, and housing—there was no task too large or small. Though hurricane Rita slammed into the Texas coast almost 2 years ago Verna is still helping those who cannot find help elsewhere.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I want to congratulate Mrs. Rutherford on a job well done and wish her the best as she moves forward with her career. Through her diligent efforts and dedication she has made Southeast Texas a better place to live.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF JAMES ROWLAND AND THE DESIGNATION OF THE JAMES ROWLAND ASSISTANCE CENTER IN FRESNO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Rowland of Fresno, Cali-

fornia. A great honor is being bestowed upon James, as the new Fresno County Probation Department Crime Victim Assistance Facility will be officially named the James Rowland Crime Victim Assistance Center.

James Rowland began his career as the Fresno County chief probation officer on October 2, 1972. His efforts to give crime victims the consideration, fairness, and support they so desperately deserve has been instrumental in changing the way the justice system perceives and treats crime victims. In 1976 James Rowland created the first victim impact statement to provide the judiciary with an objective inventory of victim injuries and losses at sentencing. The victim impact statement has brought not only nationwide but worldwide recognition that crime victims need additional assistance. This happened through James Rowland's resolve and fierce determination to provide appropriate and comprehensive services to Fresno County crime victims.

After 10 years of service as Fresno County's chief probation officer, James Rowland went on to serve as the director of the California Youth Authority and the director of the California Department of Corrections. He also established the Office of Victims of Crimes in both State agencies. Furthermore, he instituted classes in State prisons where inmates learned firsthand the impact of their crimes on their victims.

James Rowland took responsibility for changing the justice system to accommodate and respond to the suffering and trauma of those victimized by crime. He has received prestigious awards from both Pepperdine and Harvard Universities, as well as various criminal justice and private agencies for contributions to the field of corrections worldwide. He is now known internationally as a crime victim advocate.

Although James Rowland is now retired after 40 years of public service, he continues to provide direction and assistance to persons and agencies that change the justice system. It is with great pride that I congratulate him for receiving this distinguished honor and for all that he has done on behalf of the county of Fresno.

TRIBUTE TO RON PRESCOTT

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, it was with great sorrow that I learned of the loss of my dear friend and colleague who was a real trailblazer in the field of education in Los Angeles. I am speaking of Mr. Ron Prescott, retired Deputy Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Ron was more than a trailblazer, he was a man with a vision for all students in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Although he had retired from everyday active duty in the day to day running of the Nation's second largest school district, he felt strongly about the importance of getting appropriate funding for students who had to be removed from regular schools that operated year round due to overcrowding.

Ron was an imposing figure during his tenure with the school district and later on, as a

retiree, when he launched a second career as an influential and respected education lobbyist.

One of his most important achievements as a lobbyist was leading a way for new dollars to pay for integration programs. His efforts led to funding that became the genesis of L.A. Unified's popular program that created magnet schools to promote voluntary integration.

As Ron stepped into the role of the first teacher hired for a 1960's program that paired white and minority students in district schools, he also found time to found the District's Office of Multicultural Education. He was a front-runner in leading early voluntary integration efforts before the era of court ordered forced busing.

Ron's vision and focus on the education of students in the Los Angeles Unified District will be sorely missed. He stands as an icon of effective, ethical advocacy for the rights of students.

The students of Los Angeles, colleagues and friends, all mourn the loss of Ron Prescott. I extend my most heartfelt condolences to his family, his students, his many close friends in the Los Angeles Unified District, and here on Capitol Hill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRUTH IN ACCOUNTING ACT OF 2007

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Truth in Accounting Act of 2007, which I am introducing today along with Ms. BACHMANN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. COOPER. I am hopeful that this bipartisan legislation will shed greater light on the long-term fiscal challenges facing our Nation and will encourage Members to take a greater interest in addressing our out-of-control entitlement spending. At the same time, I am also hopeful our approach illustrates a potential way forward for the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) as they continue to discuss different options on how to account for our social insurance programs in the Financial Report of the U.S. Government.

This legislation, which is similar to a bill introduced last session by Mr. KIRK, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. Chocoma, consists of three main components. First, it requires the Financial Report to include an audited calculation of the net present value of our primary social insurance programs, such as Medicare and Social Security, among others. Second, it requires the President consider this value when making a budget proposal to Congress and fully reveal the impact of his proposal on our long-term fiscal situation. Finally, it also requires the Secretary of Treasury and the Comptroller General of GAO to testify before Congress and provide their assessment of our Nation's long-term fiscal exposures on an annual basis. I would like to briefly discuss each of these components in greater detail.

The proposal to include the net present value of the Federal government's fiscal exposures comes from last year's Truth in Accounting bill. This provision would give the American public a clearer picture of the dire fiscal situation that we are facing, and it would require the Federal government to take responsibility for addressing this issue. According to